

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims, please amend claims 1, 4-10, and 12-14 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A composition ~~modified RNA~~ comprising: a ~~functional group post-synthetically linked to an~~ modified RNA and a transfection reagent wherein said modified RNA consists of a functional group post-synthetically linked to an RNA via a labile bond and wherein said functional group enhances interaction of said RNA with said transfection reagent delivery of said RNA to a mammalian cell and wherein said RNA is selected from the group consisting of siRNA and microRNA.
- 2-3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The ~~modified RNA~~ composition of claim 1 wherein the functional group is linked to a ribose 2' hydroxyl of the RNA.
5. (currently amended) The ~~modified RNA~~ composition of claim 1 wherein the functional group is selected from the list consisting of: hydrophobic group, membrane active compound, cell penetrating compound, cell targeting signal, interaction modifier, and steric stabilizer.
6. (currently amended) The ~~modified RNA~~ composition of claim 4 wherein the RNA is modified at: a single ribose 2' hydroxyl of the RNA, more than one but not all of the ribose 2' hydroxyls of the RNA, or all of the ribose 2' hydroxyls of the RNA.
7. (currently amended) The ~~modified RNA~~ composition of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA consists of a silylated RNA.
8. (currently amended) The ~~modified RNA~~ composition of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA consists of an acylated RNA.
9. (currently amended) The ~~modified RNA~~ composition of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA consists of an alkylated RNA.
10. (currently amended) The ~~modified RNA~~ composition of claim 1 whercin the ~~modified RNA is associated with a transfection agent~~ selected from the group consisting of siRNA and microRNA.
11. (canceled)
12. (currently amended) The ~~mammalian cell~~ composition of claim 1 wherein the mammalian cell consists of: an *in vivo* mammalian cell or an *in vitro* mammalian cell.

13. (currently amended) The ~~modified RNA~~ composition of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA is more resistant to nucleases than the RNA if it were not linked to the functional group.
14. (currently amended) The ~~modified RNA~~ composition of claim 1 wherein a plurality of functional groups are attached to said RNA via labile bonds.